

Ms. Windram started working for the people on September 10, 1973 as a Claims Representative in the Boro Hall Field Office in New York. Two months later she transferred uptown and in 1978 she was named Operations Analyst and after another 2 months she was promoted to Operations Supervisor in East Harlem. She was named Branch Manager of the West Farms office and 4 years later was named Assistant District Manager in the North Bronx.

She continued her ascent at SSA and in 2003 she joined the Regional Office staff, becoming Deputy Assistant Regional Commissioner for Management and Operations Support. Throughout her career Ms. Windram used her growing and extensive knowledge of field operations to serve the agency and the public.

In retirement, Ms. Windram plans to travel and spend more time with her family. She also plans to share her experience and knowledge by teaching. I join her colleagues in wishing her the very best in retirement and in thanking her for her years of serving the public so admirably and well.

#### RECOGNIZING MEMBERS OF HONOR FLIGHT SOUTH ALABAMA

#### HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise to commend Honor Flight South Alabama and the 89 World War II veterans this very special organization is bringing to Washington, D.C., on May 4, 2011.

Founded by the South Alabama Veterans Council, Honor Flight South Alabama is an organization whose mission is to fly heroes from Mobile, Baldwin, Washington, Clarke, Monroe, Covington, and Escambia counties in Alabama to see their national memorial.

Over six decades have passed since the end of World War II and, regrettably, it took nearly this long to complete work on the memorial that honors the spirit and sacrifice of the 16 million who served in the U.S. armed forces and the more than 400,000 who paid the ultimate sacrifice. Sadly, many veterans did not live long enough to hear their country say "thank you" yet, for those veterans still living, Honor Flight provides for many their first—and perhaps only—opportunity to see the National World War II Memorial, which honors their service and sacrifice.

This Honor Flight begins at dawn when the veterans will gather at historic Fort Whiting in Mobile and travel to Mobile Regional Airport to board a US Airways flight to Washington. During their time in their nation's capital, the veterans will visit the World War II Memorial, Arlington National Cemetery, and other memorials.

The veterans will return to Mobile Regional Airport Wednesday evening, where a very large crowd of family and friends are expected to greet them.

Mr. Speaker, Wednesday's journey of 89 heroes from South Alabama is an appropriate time for us to pause and thank them—and all of our military who fought in World War II—for they collectively and literally saved the world. They personify the very best America has to

offer, and I urge my colleagues to take a moment to pay tribute to their selfless devotion to our country and the freedom we enjoy.

I salute each of the 89 veterans who made the trip on May 4, 2011. May we never forget their valiant deeds and tremendous sacrifices: Clavis Akridge, Mary Balch, Herbert Barnhart, Harry Bennitt, Nathan Beverly, Blake Blakeney, Jim Botts, Sr., Robert Bryant, Howard Carney, Sr., Harold Childers, Charles Christie, Dale Crittenden, Arthur Days, Jr., Donald Delmarter, Gerald Devuyt, William, Duffy, Sr., John Elliott, Hardy Eubanks, Osburn Flener, Delbert Ganson, Albert Garrett, James Glisson, George Grant, Bobbie Gwin, James Hathcock, Jr., Allen Honeycutt, Andrew Jackson, Jordan Jackson, Ralph Jackson, Weyman Jobe, Ben Johnson, Henry Jones, Emory Jones, Mathew Kautzer, Robert Killam, Kenneth Kollar, Joseph Kress, William Krist, William Lauten, John Loper, Reginald Loper, Charles Loury, James Maupin, Bruce Maynard, Perry McClure, Bryant McDonald, Jr., Glenn Merrill, Robert Middleton, John Mobley, Tristram Mock, James Mullineaux, Albert Murrell, William Nanney, Jr., James Nettles, John Nettles, Jr., Ronald O'Donnell, John Odom, Morgan Odom, Curtis Outlaw, Sr., John Overbeck, Oliver Palanjian, Orin Parker, Jr., William Patterson, Hurshel Paul, Webster Pedersen, Peter Richardson, Tom Robertson, Albert Roll, Jr., Joe Salzmann, Norman Sannes, Frank Schneider, Louis Spadaro, Lamar Stapleton, Bernie Steele, Rene Stiegler, Jr., Orrin Strickler, Floyd Stringfellow, Irvine Tucker, Waid Turner, Donald VanBeek, James Walker, Sr., Eldred Ward, Jr., Hugh Wiggins, Lewis Wilder, Frederick Witzel, Vernon Woodcock, Robert Yearty, Joseph Zulofsky, and Eldred Latham.

#### HONORING MS. CINDY SMITH FOR HER 32 YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO AMERICAN AGRICULTURE

#### HON. FRANK D. LUCAS

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, May 3, 2011*

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Cindy Smith, the outgoing Administrator of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS). She has served as Administrator of APHIS since September 2007, ably carrying out the mission of APHIS: protecting American agriculture.

Ms. Smith has dedicated her life to public service, and is a true success story. She started out at APHIS in 1979 as a clerk-typist. She worked her way from the bottom to the top of the agency, showing a real commitment to its important mission, no matter the job. She understands the value of leadership development. The APHIS Leadership Development Roadmap she inspired has served as a model for other Federal agencies.

As APHIS Administrator, Ms. Smith led a major regulatory agency that protects U.S. plant and animal health, administers the Animal Welfare Act, and conducts wildlife damage and disease management activities, overseeing more than 8,800 employees.

Ms. Smith has a unique ability to identify emerging issues and determine a course of

action to attain high-quality outcomes that are technically sound while still respectful of the taxpayers' dollars. She understands how to build momentum for her ideas, while working closely with stakeholders on all sides of an issue to strengthen support and identify consensus.

When HINT influenza started gaining international attention in 2009, Ms. Smith provided key leadership in shaping USDA's response. She formulated an effective response plan, recognizing what the impacts and implications of detection in the U.S. livestock population would be, and how it would affect the swine industry. She directed APHIS to align animal health and human health officials at the Federal, State, and local levels to coordinate U.S. policy should H1N1 be identified in the U.S. swine herd, and she ensured the swine industry was included in the discussion. Under her leadership, APHIS and its partners developed action and communication plans that government and industry stakeholders praised for their inclusiveness and transparency. Once a case of H1N1 was identified, government officials spoke with one voice, providing a clear message to the public and stakeholders, assuring them of the safety of pork, and how APHIS and government efforts were protecting the swine industry and human health. Due to the groundwork she laid, the United States was able to avoid trade disruptions with Canada, and address concerns raised by Mexico.

With foresight, vision, and an ability to collaborate and get others behind her ideas, Ms. Smith demonstrated genuine leadership in what could have been a major crisis. Her efforts dramatically minimized the impact on American agriculture, and were of innumerable value to this country.

Ms. Smith has always demonstrated forward thinking. While she was Deputy Administrator for APHIS' Biotechnology Regulatory Services program, she recognized the growing importance of biotechnology in agriculture, as well as the need for more rigorous requirements for field tests of GE crops. She was instrumental in developing a program to help companies and researchers enhance their compliance with biotechnology regulatory requirements. Through its proactive approach to compliance, companies who participate in the Biotechnology Quality Management System are better able to analyze their operations, identify vulnerabilities, and see that they're addressed. The program she helped implement ensures accountability by confirming that trials of these necessary and beneficial crops are conducted responsibly. The program she created continues to grow, as more and more universities and small and large businesses recognize the value of participation.

Ms. Smith's integrity, dedication, professionalism—and perhaps most importantly, her leadership—have served the United States well in all these endeavors. While she is not retiring from federal service, and has taken a new role as APHIS' Chief Advisor for Government, Academia, and Industry Partnership, I wanted to thank her for her 32 years of service with APHIS, her successful tenure as administrator, and her continued commitment to the American people and U.S. agriculture.